

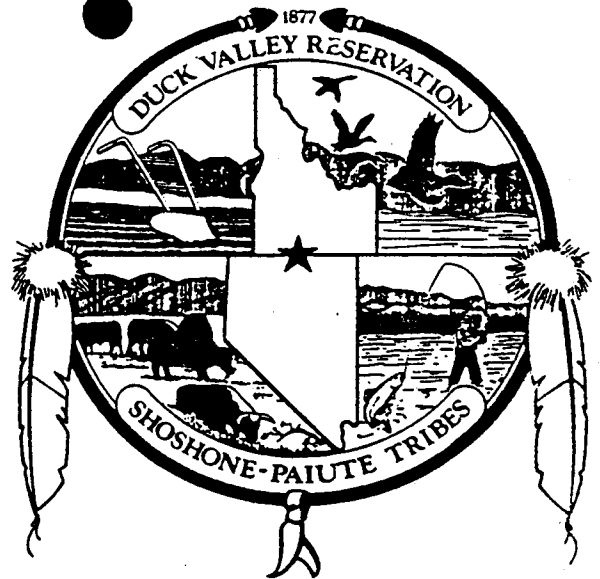
March 17, 1988

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman
Councilmen

FR: Herman C. Atkins *HCA*
Tribal Administrator

RE: Water & Sewer Problems



This is to bring you up to date on the problems we are experiencing with the city water & sewer system.

On Tuesday, March 8th, an oily taste was reported to the Water and Sanitation Director, Larry Manning from residents near the Rec Hall and Hospital personnel. Larry flushed the water lines through hydrants located near the BIA Roads Shop and below the hospital. The main pump located at the well near the BIA Roads Shop was shut down and was switched to the 10 horsepower pump and well located next to the Gah Nee Teachers Apartment.

On Wednesday, March 9th, the oily taste was still present in the water as reported by school personnel. The Indian Health Service Sanitarian from Elko was called to come and take water samples.

On Thursday, March 10th, Teresa Botruff, the IHS Sanitarian came to Owyhee, however, she didn't have the special bottles for taking water samples. The green Water Tank on the hill was inspected and the odor of oil was present inside the tank.

On Tuesday, March 15th, water samples were finally taken. The results will not be available for at least two weeks. Larry flushed the main well and pumped roughly 144,000 gallons out of the well. He also dug a 13 foot hole between the BIA Roads fuel storage tank and the main well. A strong oil odor was found in the sand and a substantial oil film was found on water samples taken from the water table.

On Wednesday, March 16th, two more holes were dug, one between Dog Street and the main well and another at the Northeast corner of the firestation lot. A small amount of oil appeared to be present in the hole near Dog Street and no indication was found at the fire station lot.

James Paiva, Chairman
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There are no noticeable traces of oil in the water system at this time. Marvin Cota, the BIA Roads Supervisor, stated that he will begin removing the fuel storage tank buried adjacent to the BIA Roads Shop today.

We will continue to pump water from the well that isn't contaminated. The main pumps will not be used until the test results are reported and any contaminations of the main well is corrected. We are requesting IHS engineers and Health personnel for proper advice for correcting this matter.

The sewer problems began at the Newtown Subdivision during the weekend of March 5th and 6th.

The sewer liftstation at newtown operates on two alternating submersible pumps or they both pump at the same time if the load requires. Anyway, they both burned out during that weekend.

Larry tried to get the pumps to run beginning, Monday, March 7th.

On Friday, March 11th, the manufacturer referred Larry to the Service Center in Caldwell and the pumps were delivered.

On Monday, March 14th, both pumps were diagnosed for repair and parts were ordered from Los Angeles. Express mail to deliver on Tuesday, March 15th.

The pumps are ready for pick-up today and will be installed this evening whenever it arrives. The estimated cost of repairs is around \$2,700.00.

Sewer is currently overflowing in Drumstick Circle.

HCA/zm

cc: Larry Manning; W & S Director
Kevin Melcher, Owyhee Schools
~~Norman Cavanaugh, IHS, Owyhee~~